

# Studio One

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## Choices

Bibhu Padhi  
[studio1@csbsju.edu](mailto:studio1@csbsju.edu)

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## CHOICES

When it comes to choosing  
from more than one pain,  
tears emerge from secret places,  
the belief in oneself is eroded  
by the smallest differences.  
They all seem to come from  
the same place, carrying similar  
lonelinesses. The mind and heart  
suffer attacks of an elaborate grief  
that is beyond all choosing,  
all available rules of choice  
and exclusion. The tears  
come forth again, against  
your wish, even as you feel  
weak and alone, while the world  
moves on its ancient road  
of forgetting all that is close  
to you, including those  
much-diffused tears of a while ago.  
Alien eyes suspect the story behind  
your residual tears, even as you  
turn away, remember—  
more than ever before—your  
own stories of loss and insult,  
how you were excluded in story  
after story by someone else's  
grief over choices  
and the consequent pain of loss.

-Bibhu Padhi  
Odisha, India